

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2861

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG APER UNIDO JA

SUBJECT: UNIDO - GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND SENIOR-LEVEL

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS

REF: A. VIENNA 4417 (NOTAL)

B. VIENNA 4523 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY - DEMANDS VOICED AT IDB-VIII BY LDC'S, JOINED BY JAPAN,
FOR LITERAL APPLICATION GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION FOR SENIOR
SECRETARIAT STAFF APPOINTMENTS, CONTINUED RESISTANCE BY ABDEL-RAHMAN
TO APPOINTMENT OF US NATIONAL AS UNIDO DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
AND POSSIBLE IRRESOLUTE RESPONSE BY UNSYG COULD CAUSE FINDLEY
BURNS APPOINTMENT TO FALL THROUGH. MISSION WOULD REGARD THIS
AS CRITICALLY DAMAGING TO US INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS UNIDO.
END SUMMARY

1. VIENNA 4417 REPORTED VIGOROUS EXPRESSION LDC DEMANDS FOR
GREATER REPRESENTATION AT UNIDO SENIOR LEVELS (AS WELL AS FOR
SEPARATION OF UNIDO FROM UN SECRETARIAT FOR PURPOSES GEOGRAPHIC
DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF AND FOR INCREASED LEVEL OF LDC REPRESENTATION
IN UNIDO SECRETARIAT -- TEXT OF LDC DECLARATION CONTAINED REF B).

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PRC SUPPORTED FULL LDC TEXT AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES VOICED

SUPPORT LIMITED TO IMPROVED APPLICATION OF GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.

2. FOREGOING ALONE PROVIDES ABDEL-RAHMAN WITH FURTHER AMMUNITION TO USE WITH WALDHEIM AND DAVIDSON TO OPPOSE APPOINTMENT OF AMERICANS TO DIRECTORSHIPS OF ADMINISTRATION AND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS DIVISIONS, BUT UNFORTUNATE INTERVENTION OF JAPANESE DEL (REF A), WILL PROVIDE A-R WITH PREHAPS EVEN MORE TELLING ARGUMENTS. JAPANESE COMPLAINED DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF SENIOR STAFF (P-5 TO D-2) RECRUITED FROM WESTERN EUROPE (25 OF 70) AND THAT OF THREE VACANT POSTS AT D-2 LEVEL TWO "PROBABLY" WOULD GO TO "NORTH AMERICA"; HE FEW ATTENTION TO "RUMOR," WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE DISPROVED, THAT OF UNIDO'S FIVE DIVISION DIRECTORS THERE AN "UNDERSTANDING" THAT TWO OF THESE ALLOCATED TO NORTH AMERICA AND ONE EACH TO WESTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA. HE PROPOSED AFRICA, ASIA, EASTERN EUROPE, WESTERN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND NORTH AMERICA IN FUTURE SHOULD HAVE ONE EACH OF SIX EXISTING POSTS AT D-2 LEVEL.

3. CONCURRENTLY, RUMOR IS MAKING ROUNDS OF UNIDO AND LOCAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS THAT FINDLEY BURNS HAS WITHDRAWN HIS CANDIDACY. WHILE WE ASSUME THIS IS UNFOUNDED WE WOULD LIKE EXPLICIT CONFIRMATION SO THAT WE CAN SPIKE RUMOR CONFIDENTLY.

4. IN MISSION VIEW, US INTERESTS AS THEY RELATE UNIDO WOULD FOR AT LEAST NEAR FUTURE BE CRITICALLY DAMAGED IF FINDLEY BURNS APPOINTMENT FELL THROUGH. DAMAGE WOULD BE BOTH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND OPERATIONAL.

A. ON PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE, SYG'S INTENTION APPOINT BURNS AND ABDEL-RAHMAN'S OPPOSITION THERETO WIDELY KNOWN WITHIN SECRETARIAT. WHILE SOME SECRETARIAT STAFF AND DIPLOMATIC MISSION OFFICERS RESENTFUL OVER TWO DIRECTORSHIPS ACCRUING TO US AND/OR OVER ALLEGED US POWER PLAY TO SECURE TWO APPOINTMENTS, GREAT MAJORITY, INCLUDING SHARE OF THOSE "RESENTFUL" READ THIS AS MEASURE OF REAL US INFLUENCE AND ACCORDINGLY MOVED TO TAKE US VIEWS MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY INTO ACCOUNT. SINCE PROSPECT OF BURNS APPOINTMENT LEAKED SOME SEVEN WEEKS AGO, WE ENCOUNTERED PALPABLE SIGNS OF INCREASED ATTENTION TO US CONCERNS, EVEN DEFERENCE. IF AT THIS STAGE, APPOINTMENT FALLS THROUGH, IT WILL BE TAKEN AS MEASURE OF US WEAKNESS AND WILL CORRESPONDINGLY AFFECT US ABILITY INFLUENCE UNIDO STAFF AND ACTIVITIES, E.G.,
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ABILITY GET US NATIONALS RECRUITED FOR SECRETARIAT AND EXPERT POSTS. (IT MIGHT ALSO HAVE DIRECT INFLUENCE ON RUMORED ABDEL-RAHMAN INTEREST BE REAPPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; A-R'S PROTEGE, LEILA DOSS, EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF UNIDO INFORMATION SERVICE, IS TELLING COLLEAGUES THAT A-R BEING PRESSED BY CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS TO STAY ON AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS HE WILL NOT TAKE TERMINAL LEAVE BEGINNING OCTOBER 1 AS ORIGINALLY REPORTED, BUT INSTEAD WILL COME AND GO, REMAINING EFFECTIVE HEAD OF ORGANIZATION AT

LEAST UNTIL DEC. 31.)

B. UNIDO AND US OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ALSO CALL FOR EARLY ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES BY BURNS. BARBOSA PLANS LEAVE FOR GENEVA IN NEXT FEW WEEKS AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION UNIDO'S WORK PROGRAM REQUIRES HAVING COMPETENT, FIRM DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION ON THE JOB. UNIDO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EFFECTIVE, SENIOR SECRETARIAT STAFF. PRESENT SITUATION WITH FREQUENTLY ABSENT, CAPRICIOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECT AND LAME-DUCK ACTING DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVELY INTOLERABLE.

5. HOPEFULLY, FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS ENTIRELY ACADEMIC AND BURNS APPOINTMENT AND EARLY AVAILABILITY STILL "ON THE RAILS." STIBRAVY

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